

A religious painting depicting the Virgin Mary holding the infant Jesus. Mary is shown from the chest up, her face serene and looking slightly to the right. She has long, dark hair and is wearing a blue mantle over a reddish-brown garment. The infant Jesus is lying in her arms, his head resting on her chest. The background is a mix of warm, golden-yellow and blue tones, with visible brushstrokes and a textured, painterly style. Overlaid on the painting is the text "To you is born this day a Savior" in a white, elegant script font. Below the main text, the words "LUKE 2:11" are written in a smaller, simpler font.

To you
is born this day
a Savior

LUKE 2:11

**Hope Lutheran Church
December 24, 2023**

**Pastor
Organist**

**Jim Helgren
Ruth Neeman**

Nativity of Our Lord

**Prelude, Astrid Mitchell,
Violin Solo**

**Welcome, Announcements
Vivienne Neemann**

Christmas Proclamation

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Opening Hymn "O, Come, All Ye Faithful"

LBW # 45

Invocation

Confession

P: God of Life,

C: You promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

Absolution

Hymn of Praise "O Come, Little Children" Alexis & Sharon Carman

Dialogue

P: Sing to God something brand new!

C: For God has done wonderful things!

P: God has not forgotten to love us all!

C: Even the ends of the earth have heard!

P: Make a joyful noise!

C: Break forth in song!

P: With strings and horns,

C: Sing praise to the Holy One!

P: With the roaring sea and everything in it!

C: With all the land and everything in it!

P: The floods clap their hands.

C: The hills sing for joy.

P: Thank God! God is coming to set everything right;

C: Justice for everyone, everything fair.

P: Sing to God something brand new!

C: For God has done wonderful things!

Prayer of the Day (in unison)

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96

pg.261

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

Gospel

Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Sermon

Special Music

Saxophone Solo

Preston Rumery

Responsive Prayer

P: Glory to God in the highest,

C: And peace to God's people on earth.

P: Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

C: Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

P: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

C: Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.
P: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

C: Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world. Amen.

The Peace

Offering/Offertory "O Little Town of Bethlehem" 2 verses LBW # 41

Offertory Prayer

God of Abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

pg. 68

The Lord's Prayer

pg. 71

Holy Communion "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

LBW # 54

"The First Noel"

LBW # 56

Blessing

Post Communion Canticle

pg. 72

Prayer

Lighting of the Candles

"All Is Well"

Vivienne Neemann

Hymn "Silent Night"

LBW # 65

Benediction and Dismissal

Closing Hymn "Joy to the World"

LBW # 39

We are happy to have you celebrate the birth of our Savior with us tonight! Please sign the guest book in the entry if you are visiting. We invite all communing Christians to join us in Holy Communion. Merry Christmas!

Sunday, December 31st: 10:00 Worship; New Year's Eve

In our prayers we remember Bruce Gerking and Carol Speth.

We want to thank Alexis & Sharon Carman, Vivienne Neemann & Preston Rummery for their special music tonight. You all made our night brighter!

May the light of the Christ Child illumine our days, Merry Christmas!



FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Psalm 96

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should

be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom
he favors!"

[When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 61:10—62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40.

Cover: Madonna by Daniel Bonnell. Copyright © Daniel Bonnell. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the artist.

Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our website at www.augsburgfortress.org. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A. Tracks 1 and 2 ELCA-V